AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) A vehicle driver's fatigue evaluating method for quantitatively calculating a degree of fatigue of a driver seated on a seat by using an operational expression determined by a statistical technique based on load measurements comprising an amount of rearward deflection of a lower part of a backrest portion of the seat, a load applied downward to a front part of a seating portion of the seat, and a load applied rearward to an upper part of the backrest portion, in a state of the driver being seated on the seat, wherein said operational expression is obtained by a multiple regression analysis with the amount of rearward deflection of the lower part of the backrest portion, the load applied downward to the front part of the seating portion and the load applied rearward to the upper part of the backrest portion regarded as explanatory variables, and an actual degree of fatigue measured of the driver seated on the seat as a response variable, and storing load measurements and a degree of fatigue of a driver in a data file.

8-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Presented) The vehicle driver's fatigue evaluating method as defined in claim 7, wherein said actual degree of fatigue is derived from a viscoelastic property of waist muscles of the driver seated on the seat.

11. (Currently Amended) A vehicle seat evaluating apparatus comprising:

a first detecting device for detecting an amount of rearward deflection of a lower part of a backrest portion of a seat, a second detecting device for detecting a load applied downward to a front part of a seating portion of the seat, and a third detecting device

for detecting a load applied rearward to an upper part of the backrest portion, in a state of the driver being seated on the seat;

a calculating device for quantitatively calculating a degree of fatigue of the driver seated on the seat by using an operational expression determined by a statistical technique based on detection values of said first, second and third detecting devices, wherein said operational expression is obtained by a multiple regression analysis with the amount of rearward deflection of the lower part of the backrest portion, the load applied downward to the front part of the seating portion and the load applied rearward to the upper part of the backrest portion regarded as explanatory variables, and an actual degree of fatigue measured of the driver seated on the seat as a response variable; and

an evaluating device for evaluating the seat by the degree of fatigue calculated by said calculating device.

12. (Currently Amended) A vehicle seat evaluating method for evaluating a seat with a degree of fatigue calculated by a vehicle driver's fatigue evaluating method for quantitatively calculating a degree of fatigue of a driver seated on the seat and storing load measurements and a degree of fatigue of a driver in a data file, the degree of fatigue of the driver seated on the seat is calculated by using an operational expression determined by a statistical technique based on an amount of rearward deflection of a lower part of a backrest portion of the seat, a load applied downward to a front part of a seating portion of the seat, and a load applied rearward to an upper part of the backrest portion, in a state of the driver being seated, wherein said operational expression is obtained by a multiple regression analysis with the amount of rearward deflection of the lower part of the backrest portion, the load applied downward to the front part of the seating portion and the load applied rearward to the upper part of the backrest portion regarded as explanatory variables, and an actual degree of fatigue measured of the driver seated on the seat as a response variable.

13-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) A vehicle seat evaluating method as defined in ~~claim 14~~ claim 12, wherein said actual degree of fatigue is derived from a viscoelastic property of waist muscles of the driver seated on the seat.